ANNUAL REPORT of the COMMISSIONERS of EDUCATION in *Ireland*, for the Year 1863–64.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY GEORGE WILLIAM FREDERICK
EARL OF CARLISLE, K.G.,
LORD LIEUTENANT-GENERAL AND GENERAL-GOVERNOR
OF IRELAND, &c. &c. &c.

WE, "the Commissioners of Education in Ireland," constituted by an Act of Parliament passed in the fifty-third year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Third, and in obedience thereto, respectfully submit to your Excellency a General Report of the Proceedings of the Board since their last Report.

In reference to the Royal School of Armagh, we beg respectfully to state that since we last reported to your Excellency, we have paid to the Executors of the late Lord Primate, the sum of 600 *l.*, being the balance of a large sum munificently advanced by his Grace for the improvement and extension of the School premises at a time when we were not in possession of sufficient funds to enable us to carry out the works which his Grace from personal inspection had reported to us to be absolutely required for properly conducting an establishment of this class. The number of pupils on the roll does not show any material variation from that in attendance for the last few years.

The extensive additions and alterations not long since carried into effect by us at Dungannon Royal School, and on account of which we have since our last report expended upwards of 400 *l.*, have rendered this establishment one in every way worthy of the high position which the large number of pupils in attendance, and their great success at the different examinations where they have presented themselves, prove that this School holds in public estimation.

The Enniskillen Royal School, we have the pleasure to report to your Excellency, is in a most flourishing condition, whether regarded as to the School buildings and premises, the number of pupils, or the course of instruction there given. As your Excellency condescended some short time since to visit and to minutely inspect this endowment, it is scarcely necessary to report that this is one of the finest and most successful scholastic establishments in Ireland. And we beg to report that in consequence of your Excellency's recommendation to us, we caused a cricket-ground to be formed at Portora, the expense of which in consequence of the hilly nature of the ground, much exceeded what was at first anticipated; it is, however, reported to be now completed in a manner which gives great satisfaction to the numerous pupils who avail themselves of it. The Master

Master having urgently appealed to us to carry out a former Resolution of Board to restore to the School the number of assistant masters which had form been maintained by us at this establishment, but which had been some ye since reduced by us in consequence of a diminution in the number of pupils. We, having regard to the present very large attendance at the School, the great annual expenditure incurred by the Master himself in paying assistants in the various branches of general education, felt ourselves called upon to carry out our former resolution, and to raise the staff of assistants to the same amount as formerly. We have also, on the recommendation of the Master and of our architect, caused an isolated building to be erected on the School grounds as an Infirmary; and we have reason to expect that, within a very short period, the contractor will be prepared to hand over the buildings in a finished state. And we beg further to report to your Excellency, that the Master having pressed upon us that, in order to enable him to carry out more fully the benefits of this School, a large additional schoolroom is required, we have obtained plans and estimates for that purpose, and that we shall take this subject into our serious consideration.

As regards Banagher Royal School, we beg to report that very strong representations having been made to us by the Master, that a transfer of this endowment from Banagher in the King's County to Ballinasloe, in the County Galway, would be likely to lead to a more numerous attendance of pupils at the School; and an eligible offer of a school-house at a moderate rent in the neighbourhood of Ballinasloe having been made to us, we very fully discussed the proposal, but came to the conclusion that we could not comply with the prayer of the memorial, as the patent establishing this foundation would not warrant us in changing the site of the Royal School of Banagher from the King's County to the County Galway.

The condition of the Royal School of Raphoe, notwithstanding the great difficulties with which from change of the times and of circumstances it has had to contend, appears yearly to become more satisfactory; and the reports made to us of the results of an examination held at the School by a former Fellow of Trinity College, for prizes granted by us, are very creditable to the exertions of the Master.

As regards the Royal Schools of Cavan and Carysfort, we do not feel called upon to make any special remarks to your Excellency; but we may report, generally, that all the Royal School premises are now and have been kept in a sound and satisfactory condition.

It is, perhaps, scarcely necessary that we should state to your Excellency that the management under the care of our local agents, and the general condition of the Estates forming the endowments of the Royal Schools, have during the last year necessarily occupied much of our time and consideration.

The subject of the Royal Scholarships founded by us in the University, and which are only obtainable after a severe competitive examination in a very extensive course (which is from time to time, varied by us), and which become forfeited unless the holders obtain during each year of their under-graduate course, certain high literary distinctions in the University, has been so frequently

pointed

pointed out in our Annual Reports, and the great success of many of those Scholars in subsequently obtaining many of the appointments and situations now thrown open to public competition, having been frequently adverted to, we do not feel called upon now to do more than to state to your Excellency that the Reports made to us by the Examiners, prove that there is no relaxation of exertion on the part of the various masters, and are most creditable to the students themselves. And we may state that recently we have much extended and made more general the class of annual distinctions which qualifies a Royal Scholar to retain his Exhibition. And we beg to refer your Excellency to a Schedule hereunto annexed, containing the names of the present Exhibitioners, and the respective amounts annually payable by us to each.

The condition of the various schools of private endowment under our control, continues to be much the same as when we last reported to your Excellency, with the exception of the Endowed School of Midleton, in the County Cork, which, under its present Master, shows such promise of success, that the local Governors having represented to us the great importance of making extensive alterations and improvements in the School premises, we agreed to expend for that purpose a fund in our hands, which was the result of savings accumulated by us when this School was almost in a state of abeyance; and plans having been procured and submitted to and approved of by the local Governors, we have to report that the works are now in progress, with every prospect of their being completed soon after the termination of the summer vacation. And we should further state to your Excellency that we have very recently received from the Governors of this School, who held there a visitation and made a very minute inspection of the entire establishment, a report so creditable to the Master as to warrant a very confident expectation that this Endowment, small though it is, will ere long become one of very great value to the South of Ireland.

No changes of such importance as to call for any special observations to your Excellency, have taken place in the Diocesan or District Diocesan Schools.

All which we respectfully submit to your Excellency as our opinion.

(signed) MAZIERE BRADY, C.
PLUNKET TUAM, &c.
RICHARD MACDONNELL.
FRANCIS BLACKBURNE.
ROBERT SHAW.
J. G. PORTER
WILLIAM GIBSON.

Wm. Cotter Kyle, LL.D., M.R.I.
Secr

8 Clare-street, 24 June 1864.

SCHEDULE of the ROYAL SCHOLARS.

On the Armagh Royal School Foundation.

	£.		£.
W. Riddall	30 per annum.	J. W. Hogan	20 per annum.
R. Turle	30 „	C. Faussett	20 „
D. Orr	10 „	H. Tracy	30 „
A. Robinson	40 „	M. Armstrong	20 „
S. J. Heritage	50 „		

On the Cavan Royal School Foundation.

J. Mills	15 *l.* per annum.	J. J. Lough	15 *l.* per annum.

On the Dungannon Royal School Foundation.

	£		£.
R. H. Collins	50 per annum.	R. C. Christian	40 per annum.
H. B. Leech	50 „	W. Erskine	50 „
W. Colquhoun	50 „	W. K. Appelbe	30 „
C. Kough	50 „		

On the Enniskillen Royal School Foundation.

	£		£.
R. Purser	50 per annum.	J. MacIvor	50 per annum.
R. Bennett	50 „	J. B. Hutton	30 „
W. A. Leech	50 „	J. G. Gibson	50 „
E. G. Cooper	30 „	G. Wright	30 „
T. Hime	30 „	G. Richardson	30 „

Wm. Cotter Kyle, Sec.

EDUCATION (IRELAND).

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(Presented to Parliament by Her Majesty's Command.)

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